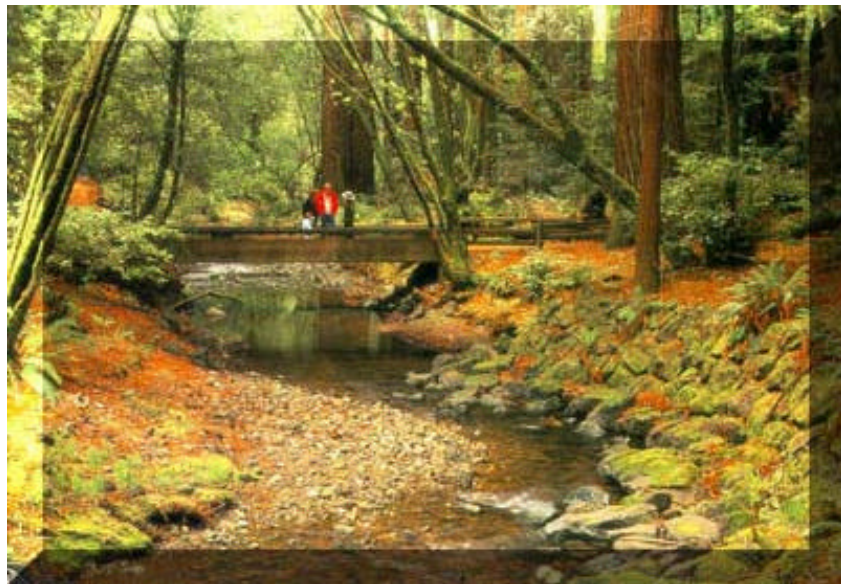




WELCOME!

Thank you for taking the time to read this manual. You are an important part of the Muir Woods Team. We hope that your tour goes as smoothly as possible and that the visitors you transport experience Muir Woods to the fullest.

Included in this manual are some general rules to help ensure everyone has an enjoyable visit while the natural resources of the park are preserved. Also included is information about this old growth grove of redwoods and the history of Muir Woods.



Your cooperation is essential to the management of our traffic and parking congestion. The rules were established to achieve equitable parking and a safe and free flow of traffic. Obeying the rules is important all the time and most especially during the critical heavy visitation periods of summer, weekends and holidays. Your courtesy and support set a positive example for the new visitor to Muir Woods.

Parking at Muir Woods is very limited. Visiting the park prior to 10:00 am or after 3:00 pm mid-week increases your chances of finding a parking stall and enhances the tour for your passengers. Your Restricted Use Permit (RUP) does not guarantee you a parking stall.

SELF QUIZ



What are the peak visiting times at Muir Woods?

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK

Muir Woods National Monument is administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. In 1916 Congress created the National Park Service. Congress authorizes the annual appropriations to maintain the monument and to provide salaries of employees.

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Muir Woods National Monument is administered by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area was established in 1972.

The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is to preserve and enhance the natural environment and cultural resources of the coastal lands north and south of the Golden Gate Bridge for the inspiration, education and recreation of people today, and for future generations. In the spirit of bringing National Parks to the people, we reach out to the diverse urban community, bringing the richness and breadth of the National Park experience to all including those who may never have the opportunity to visit other National Parks. We also work to protect the integrity of our park's fragile resources in the challenging context of an urban setting. And, we are committed to forging partnerships with the community to strengthen the park's relevance to our metropolitan neighbors and to engage the public in stewardship of the park's history and ecology.



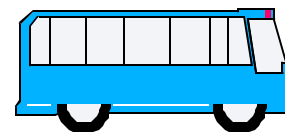
SELF QUIZ



What is the purpose of the National Park Service?

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Highway 1 and Muir Woods Road are regulated by the California Highway Patrol which does not advise commercial vehicles longer than 35 feet. Vehicles longer than 35 feet are prohibited from entering Muir Woods' parking lots. Violators are subject to citation.
2. Please be courteous to other drivers on these narrow and crowded roads. When there are more than 4 vehicles behind you, pull over in the first pull off you come to and allow them to pass.
3. Commercial operators entering the park on a basis of three times per week or seven times per month must possess a Golden Gate National Recreation Area Restricted Use Permit (RUP). Commercial operation in the park without a Restricted Use Permit is prohibited and subject to citation. For more information please call the Business Management Office, 415-561-4944.
4. Commercial guided group talks or walks are by Special Use Permit only. Violators are subject to citation. Commercial guides can accompany their walks only as far as the cross-section site in the woods. For further information, please contact the Site Supervisor at 415-388-2596.
5. Drivers/Tour Guides please review park rules with passengers prior to their departure from the bus, with particular emphasis on no smoking or collecting, and the importance of staying on the paths.
6. Drivers/Tour Guides please distribute pre-paid park entrance tickets (if applicable) and direct passengers to walk on the pedestrian walkway (not on the roadway or through the parking area) prior to their departure from the bus. **Please instruct your passengers to give their blue tickets to the Fee Collectors at the entrance. They will also receive a park brochure.**
7. Vehicle engines shall not idle while parked in any park area and must be turned off prior to passengers disembarking. Engine idling in any park area is prohibited and subject to citation.
8. Commercial vehicles please exit Muir Woods to the right from the parking lot, and use the lower Muir Woods Road to leave the park.
9. Commercial vehicle parking is permitted only in the designated commercial vehicle stalls. If all spaces are occupied, safely unload passengers in the loading zone. You may distribute tickets there and orient passengers to Muir Woods. Then take vehicle down lower Muir Woods Road and wait until group is finished or until a space in the bus area has opened up.
10. Bus parking in the Annex Lot is prohibited.

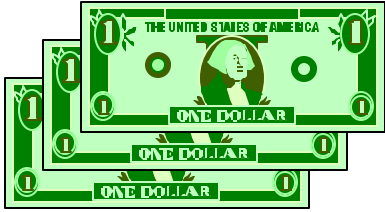


11. Mini-vans, limousines, taxicabs and all other commercial vehicles less than 28 feet in length may park in the Commercial Vehicle Zone after 11:00 am unless otherwise instructed by a Law Enforcement Ranger. At all other times they can load and unload passengers using the bus loading zone and once passengers are unloaded, park in any available legal passenger space.

SELF QUIZ



Which 3 regulations would the Park Service appreciate special emphasis on?



ENTRANCE FEE

Entrance to Muir Woods is \$3 per person 17 years and older. Fees are collected by our park partner, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

To purchase tickets in advance, please call the Parks Conservancy at 415-388-7368. When tickets are purchased in advance, **pass one out to each passenger** and instruct them to present their tickets at the Visitor Center window to receive a brochure. This is important since it facilitates a speedy entrance process for your passengers and Muir Woods also tracks daily visitation numbers by number of tickets collected or sold. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that Muir Woods does not limit the number of visitors per day, and holders of advance tickets are not guaranteed parking or other services.

RECREATION FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Entrance fees at Muir Woods, since May 1997, are part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. 80% of revenues collected are retained by the park and utilized to fund backlogged maintenance projects, habitat enhancement projects and visitor services improvements. The remaining 20% are deposited into an account which distributes monies to parks not collecting fees and to special programs such as the Public Lands Corps Grant.

HISTORY OF FEE COLLECTION AT MUIR WOODS

1965, under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Muir Woods was designated a federal fee collection area. Revenues were deposited into the Fund for purchase of state and federal recreation areas. The fee was \$0.50 per person 16 years and older.

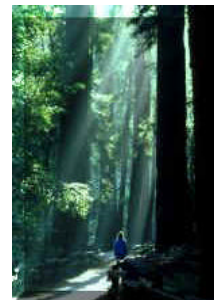
1978, with Muir Woods inclusion in the newly created Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the entrance fee was abolished.

1997, under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, the entrance fee was reinstated.

2002, the entrance fee was increased to \$3 per person 17 years and older.

DONATION BOX

The donation box is located at the entrance. Monies from donations support the Internship program and other Muir Woods general expenses.



SELF QUIZ



What are the majority of fee monies used for?

Where do passengers redeem their blue tickets?

VISITOR SERVICES

Restrooms are located in the main parking lot and near the concession (second right up the main trail).

Drinking Fountains are located in the main parking lot near the restroom, outside the Visitor Center, at the restrooms near the concession, at the 2nd bridge and at the Fern Creek trailhead.

Phones are located in the main parking lot near the restroom and just outside the concession.



Wheelchairs and strollers are available. They may be checked out at the Visitor Center on a first-come, first-served basis.

RANGER TALKS

15 minute Redwood Ecology Talks are usually given throughout the day. Visitors may check the schedule at the entrance for times and locations. Also, visitors may check the schedule for any special programs.

VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center, located at the entrance, contains exhibits, helpful staff members, and an array of interpretive and educational merchandise, including books, postcards, posters, maps and area information.

The Muir Woods park brochure is available in German, Spanish, French and Japanese for \$1. An Italian brochure is available at no charge. A self-guided nature tour guide and hiking trails map is available for \$2.00.

CONCESSIONAIRE

ARAMARK operates the gift shop and café which are located inside the park entrance, first and second rights up the main trail. A wide variety of gifts, souvenirs and tasty snacks are offered. Also available are Giant Sequoia and Coast Redwood seedlings and redwood burls. The Concession and gift shop may be reached at 415-388-7059.



SELF QUIZ



Where are the restrooms located?

PARK GUIDELINES

Your help in communicating these visitor guidelines is greatly appreciated and goes a long way in keeping the park a beautiful place for all to enjoy.

No smoking is allowed in the park past the entrance arch. Please encourage your visitors to use the ashtrays.



Visitors are not permitted off the trails. It tramples vegetation which takes years to grow back. Damage to the roots of the trees also occurs when visitors are off the trails.

Picnicking is not allowed anywhere in Muir Woods.

Coins should not be thrown in the creek. Coins create toxins in the water that are poisonous to plant and fish life.

Removal of anything from the monument is not allowed. Over 1 million people visit the park every year. If everyone took home a leaf, branch or stick, there wouldn't be anything left for others to enjoy and there wouldn't be any decaying matter on the forest floor to nourish other plants and animals.

Pets are not allowed anywhere in the park. Guide dogs assisting visitors are permitted.

No littering please, not even orange peels or sunflower seed, or pistachio shells.



SELF QUIZ



What are 3 important visitor guidelines?

MUIR WOODS HISTORY

The Coast Miwok were the original inhabitants of Marin County. Their largest villages were located at Bolinas Bay, Sausalito and San Rafael. These sites were convenient to estuaries where there was a dependable supply of seafood and to oak groves where the women could gather acorns. The Miwok also started fires to open up the forest. Since deer feed primarily on the kinds of vegetation which springs up after fires, this improved hunting.

Apparently, the native peoples avoided the dark redwood forests. No Miwok artifacts have been found in Muir Woods. According to Miwok myth, a race of little people called "Sekah" lived in Muir Woods. They were believed to have the power to drive humans crazy.

Spaniards were the first white settlers in Marin County, with the establishment of Mission San Rafael in December, 1817. Spanish settlement contributed to Marin culture, but had limited impact on the land.

In 1838, William Richardson, an English immigrant, obtained the land grant Rancho Sausalito. This 19,571 acre tract included Sausalito, parts of Mill Valley, Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods. Few changes were made in land use.

With the Gold Rush, a great flood of humanity needed timber, meat, crops and land. Blacktail deer populations diminished; elk and antelope, grizzly and black bear, cougar and coyote disappeared as meat and hide hunters swarmed over the country. Most Bay Area timber, including the accessible redwood stands of Marin County, was logged between 1840 and 1870. Redwood Canyon underwent little logging because of its inaccessibility.

By 1890, local conservationists realized how vulnerable Redwood Canyon was to advancing civilization. William Kent, a Marin County resident, was urged to purchase the land. In 1905, Kent, convinced of the wood's value, purchased Redwood Canyon for \$45,000.



In 1907, the North Coast Water Company, successor to the Tamalpais Land and Water Company, started legal proceedings for a reservoir in Redwood Canyon. Kent realized the Antiquities Act of 1906 allowed the President, without the consent of Congress, to set aside land of scientific or historic value. He began efforts to donate the tract to the government. After frustrating delays, Kent's offer was accepted. Muir Woods, named in honor of conservationist John Muir, was proclaimed a National Monument on January 9, 1908. The North Coast Water Company suit was thrown out three years later.

Travel increased slowly, but by 1913, 40,000 visitors each year were entering the woods. People wandered aimlessly and cars were unrestricted. It became obvious that the fragile understory vegetation was disappearing. In 1924 cars were excluded from redwood groves, and trails were defined.

As visitors multiplied, more restrictions were imposed in order to minimize damage to the land. Picnicking was eliminated; fences lined the more heavily used trails, **and collecting of plants, animals, or rocks was prohibited**. Gradually, small tracts of private land have been added to the Monument to eliminate incompatible uses.

In the past, the sheer volume of visitation resulted in trampling and destruction. Heavy travel off-trail compacted soil around the redwoods and exposed roots to wear and tear. Today, restoration work is in progress to rebuild the soil, revegetate trampled areas, return the abundant biodiversity, revitalize the stream and rebuild the threatened populations of salmon and trout.

SELF QUIZ



Which native peoples were original inhabitants of Marin County?

Did they live in Muir Woods?

REDWOOD ECOLOGY



Redwoods belong to a family of coniferous trees called Taxodiaceae. The Taxodiaceae first appeared during the Mesozoic (the age of dinosaurs) when North America and Greenland were still joined to Europe. They spread across the united northern continent until, by the early part of the age of mammals, they made up a major part of the forests. Then, with the break up of the continent, the advent of colder and dryer climates, the competition from more advanced species of trees, their fortune declined. Today, they are reduced to 15 species which are found in restricted areas in North America and eastern Asia. Besides the coast redwoods, (*Sequoia sempervirens*) the other members of Taxodiaceae which are found in the United States are the giant sequoia of the Sierra Nevada and the bald cypress of the southeastern swamps.

Coast redwoods appear to have evolved in western North America, but their fossils have been found in such widespread places as Greenland, Europe, Russia, China and Japan. Today, however, they are restricted to the California coast from Big Sur to the Oregon border. When the coast redwood was first seen by Spanish explorers in Portolá's expedition of 1769, there were about two million acres of the tall trees. Of this, about 4% remains today in virgin stands on both public and private lands. Virgin and second growth redwoods of state and federal parks total about 150,000 acres.

Historically, coast redwood is a species with a shrinking distribution. Nevertheless, many characteristics enable it to compete successfully in various plant associations.

1. **Seed Production:** Seeds are produced regularly throughout the range, but vary in number and viability. Seeds germinate readily, but survival is often low in organic litter – perhaps due to the presence of soil fungi or low acidity. On mineral soil, such as a layer of silt, seed survival can be quite high. Establishment of seedlings also requires openings to admit sunlight to the forest floor.

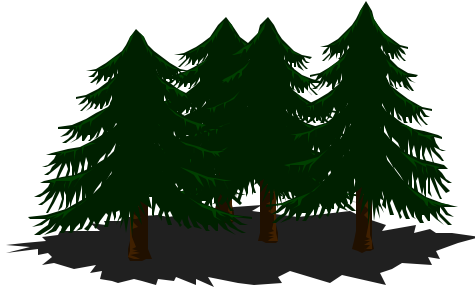
2. **Vegetative Reproduction:** Sprouting (vegetative reproduction) directly from the parent tree is common, and in Muir Woods is the primary method of reproduction. To some botanists, this ability more than any other characteristic has enabled redwoods to survive. Most importantly, sprouts use the root system of parent trees to grow faster than seedlings, which enhances their ability to compete with other trees. Sprouts are remarkable, persistent and are a source of reproduction despite repeated fires or other inhospitable conditions.

Sprouts originate from rather bizarre structures called burls. Burls start as auxiliary buds which fail to grow outward but, nevertheless, branch continually until a huge tumor-like mass of buds is produced. Burls usually grow on the root crowns, but may occur anywhere on the tree. Eventually some of the buds will begin actively growing, especially if the parent trunk has been destroyed. A few successful sprouts will develop into full sized trees.



Muir Woods has several fine examples of this process in various stages of growth. Most dramatic are the “family circles”. Sometimes only a gnarly stump remains in the center of a clump of trees which may be hundreds of years old themselves. As they will in turn be replaced by their own sprouts when they die, redwoods are, in effect, immortal.

SELF QUIZ



What family of trees do the Coast Redwoods belong to?

Which other two trees of this family are found in the United States?

REDWOOD ECOLOGY

3. **Fire Resistance:** Redwood's ability to withstand repeated fires complements its sprouting characteristic. Redwood bark is fibrous (an insulating quality) and 3 to 12 inches thick. More importantly, redwoods contain tannins and phenols rather than resins, in both bark and wood. The tree can burn, but intense, self-sustaining fires rarely occur. Single or widely spaced fires tend to eliminate and hold back competition.

Repeated fires can destroy redwood, but its advance through trunks is slowed by water-laden bark and wood. Redwood, then, is remarkably fire-resistant but not free from destruction.

4. **Resistance to Pathogens, Insects and Mammals:** Redwood resistance is famed. It outlasts most woods even when not chemically treated. The presence of tannins may explain its unattractiveness to pests. A number of insects and two species of fungus can cause minor damage.



5. **Growth Response to Temperature and Moisture:** Seedling studies reveal that redwood is a warm climate plant, but mature trees cannot withstand extreme soil moisture and evaporative stresses. This restricts it to the coastal belt of fog, precipitation and lower temperatures.

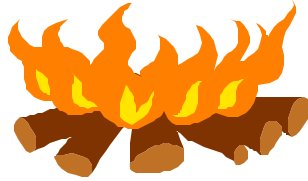
Redwoods have radial root systems six to eight feet below ground and often over 200 feet in diameter. However, water take-up is inefficient. Evaporative losses from foliage therefore exceed water take-up in summer. Only the trunk's ability to hold a large volume of water enables the tree to pass this dry period. Otherwise death occurs, or a spike top develops. Redwoods grow best where available soil moisture is high during summer. Roots resupply the trunk with water each winter.

6. **Tolerance to Flooding and Silting:** Redwoods reach their greatest size on alluvial flats, such as Redwood Creek, where flooding and silting occur periodically. These conditions kill most trees, but redwood roots survive, even when the oxygen levels are low. Redwoods send up vertical roots after silting. Lateral roots are later sent out as a replacement system. Exceptional trees in Humboldt County reveal thirty foot deposits of soil and debris around their trunks, with half a dozen or more layers of roots.



Today, excluding, destruction by ever-dominant man, death to redwoods comes mostly from windthrow (the tree toppling over due to a big wind).

SELF QUIZ



What two characteristics of redwoods prevent them from readily burning up?

What is the main cause of death for redwoods, aside from humans?

OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS



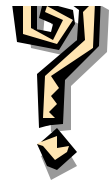
1. **How tall is the tallest tree in Muir Woods?**
The tallest tree in Muir Woods is about 260 feet high and is located in Bohemian Grove.
2. **How tall is the tallest tree in the world?**
The tallest tree in the world is a 368.6 foot high Coast redwood located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, along HWY 101 in Weott, California. It is not accessible by trail or road.
3. **How wide is the widest tree in Muir Woods?**
The widest tree is about 14 feet in diameter. It is near Bohemian Grove and can be seen from the east side of the creek.
4. **What is the age of the oldest tree in Muir Woods?**
Over 1,000 years old. One Northern Californian specimen revealed an age of 2,200 years (the maximum recorded for the species). Many coast redwoods are over 1,000 years old, but the average age of trees in Muir Woods is 400 to 800 years.
5. **What is the average growth rate of redwoods?**
The growth rate of any tree is determined by rainfall, aspect, exposure, soil compaction, density and a host of other factors. Several authorities say that after a redwood reaches maturity (approximately 100 years) the tree gains 1 inch in radius every 17 years. Redwoods reach their greatest size on alluvial flats, such as Redwood Creek, where flooding and silting occur periodically. Given lots of water, partial sun and wind protection, redwoods are very fast growing: upwards of 2 feet per year! In the dark forest and with competition from other redwoods, their growth rate is much slower.
6. **Why do Redwoods only grow near the coast?**
The redwoods need the fog and moisture to survive. The trees can only grow in certain soils which the western coastal area provides. Seedlings studies reveal that redwood is a warm climate plant, but mature trees cannot withstand extreme soil moisture and evaporative stresses. This condition restricts it to the coastal belt of fog, precipitation, and moderate temperatures.
7. **Why are the insides of the trees burned out?**
The last severe fire to be recorded in Redwood Canyon was in 1848. The burned out area of the redwoods is the result of this fire and others before it. Remember that carbon is one of the longest lasting substances. The fires were most likely started by natural causes such as lightening strikes on the dry slopes on Mt. Tamalpais instigating a brush fire that burned into the canyon.
8. **Why don't the Redwood trees burn up in a fire?**
Redwood bark is fibrous (an insulating quality) and 3 to 12 inches thick. More importantly, redwoods contain tannin and phenols (rather than resins or pitch) in both the bark and the wood. The tree can burn, but intense, self-sustaining fires rarely occur. Single or widely spaced fires tend to incite competition and also encourage redwood reproduction by clearing out the accumulated duff (leafy, often dead, undergrowth) and leaving a clear, nutrient-rich seed bed.

SELF QUIZ



How tall is the tallest tree in the world?

Where is it located?



OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

9. **How much wood is actually in one redwood tree?**
Individual redwoods have been found that measure 100,000 to 200,000 board feet. One tree was reported at 361,000 board feet, which translated to lumber was enough to build a community of thirty or more homes. The above are, of course, extremes. Normal yields from one redwood ranges from 35,000 to 100,000 board feet.
10. **Where is the walk-thru tree?**
The so-called Walk-Thru Tree in Muir Woods was in Cathedral Grove. This tree toppled over in December 1971. The tree survived about 600 years, about a quarter of its potential life span. The effects of trampling and the destruction of plant communities deprived the tree of a suitable environment in which to grow. The fence installed since the tree's demise hopefully will extend the lives of the remaining redwoods in Cathedral Grove. The destruction to the environment over the many years of unrestricted use, however, will take many years to recover. Damage to the redwoods is probably irreversible.
11. **Where is the drive-thru tree?**
There never was one in Muir Woods. The one most people are referring to is the Wawona Tree, a giant sequoia in Yosemite National Park. The Wawona Tree toppled over during the Winter of 1969 from the weight of the heavy snow.

Another drive-thru tree is a coast redwood found in Leggett, CA, known as the Chandelier Tree, about 180 miles north on Highway 101. It is in a privately owned stand of redwoods and a fee is required for driving through it. There are also two other drive-thru trees on Hwy 101 north of there.
12. **Where are the great big trees?**
Muir Woods contains the tallest species of trees, the coast redwoods. The big, wide trees are called giant sequoias (or "Sierra redwoods"), located in Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. These trees are larger in diameter than the coastal redwood, but are not as tall.
13. **What are the trees with the peeling bark along the road?**
Blue gum eucalyptus are native of Australia and were planted in the 1850s and 1860s in the hopes of introducing a hardwood tree in the Bay Area. They are, however, not usable as hardwood, and instead are providing windbreaks. They grow rapidly and prolifically in the Bay Area, encroaching on the habitats of our native plant life.
14. **Where does Redwood Creek originate and where does it empty into the ocean?**
Redwood Creek originates near Rock Springs on Mount Tamalpais. It drains 10 square miles of the mountain's southern slopes, fed by underground streams. The creek flows all year, though in the drier, summer months it drops to a meandering trickle.
15. **What are the boardwalks made of?**
The boardwalks are made of reused redwood. The entrance area boardwalk is constructed of redwood reclaimed from a planing mill constructed in the 1930s that was dismantled. Other portions of the boardwalk are made of certified sustainably harvested redwood.

SELF QUIZ



What was the Wawona Tree?

Where was it located?

OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

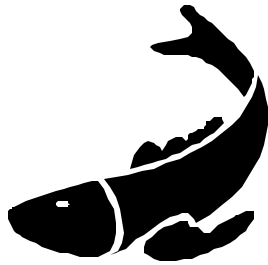


16. **When do the salmon come up Redwood Creek?**
Muir Woods has both silver (coho) salmon and steelhead trout. Salmon usually come up after the first heavy rain in mid-December and the spawning runs will usually last through March. Both species come up from the ocean to spawn. The salmon die afterwards, but often the steelhead return to the sea. **FISHING IS NOT ALLOWED.**
17. **Why don't we hear or see any birds?**
The great amount of shade found in a redwood forest inhibits flowering plants which, in turn, means fewer flowers, berries and seeds, and a reduced food supply. Redwoods are also resistant to insects, limiting food for insect eating birds.

Birds may be observed more frequently in the open grassland areas and near the creek where a more dependable food supply exists, and fewer people are around to bother them.

Nevertheless, several interesting species of birds can be seen. Steller's jays, brown towhees, ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets, and chestnut-backed chickadees are common near the entrance where there is more understory vegetation. Winter wrens, Oregon juncos, and varied thrushes (winter only) may be seen deeper in the forest. Turkey vultures, ravens and red-tailed hawks soar between the surrounding ridges.
18. **What kind of wildlife is in Muir Woods?**
Black-tailed (mule) deer, banana slugs, Sonoma chipmunks, squirrels, gray fox, gophers, moles, an occasional bobcat and owls.
19. **When is the wildflower season?**
The wildflowers are in bloom from January until June.
20. **How far is the trail?**
There are a number of different trails with different lengths. Our main trail has 2 popular loops. There is a brisk 30 minute walk that starts from the Entrance Arch and crosses at the 2nd bridge. This walk is a quarter of a mile one way, for a 1/2 mile round trip. For visitors who want a longer walk take the main trail to the 3rd bridge and cross over. This takes about 45 minutes and is 1 mile round trip.
21. **How many acres is Muir Woods?**
559 acres. Muir Woods is surrounded by Mt. Tamalpais State Park.
22. **What is the number of people who visit Muir Woods yearly?**
Approximately one million visitors come to Muir Woods each year.

SELF QUIZ



What two species of fish spawn in Redwood Creek?

What time of year do they spawn?



OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

23. **Why are there so many visitor restrictions generally?**
All the rules and regulations of the monument are directed towards protecting and maintaining the natural conditions of the area. Our primary purpose is to provide a pristine, old growth redwood forest for people to visit and enjoy forever. As visitation has grown, many rules have become necessary to protect this unique and fragile environment from human impact. We are surrounded by state and national park land where other recreational activities are possible.
24. **Why isn't off-trail use permitted?**
Human impact (vegetation trampling) is one of the most pressing problems of Muir Woods. The small size of the park and the number of people who visit the park each year make it difficult to protect the fragile plant communities that are essential to the survival of the redwoods, and the regeneration of the new trees. Therefore, it is important that visitors to Muir Woods stay on the trails to minimize damage and guarantee the future viability of the forest.
25. **May visitors take home natural objects or mementos?**
Every twig, stem, fallen leaf or piece of bark is a part of the natural processes in the woods and should not be removed, even from the surrounding parking areas. There are probably few visitors who do not wish to take home a keepsake from Muir Woods, but each must consider that their impact is combined with that of over a million visitors each year. One should be able to appreciate the eventual damage from removal of natural objects.
26. **Where is camping and picnicking permitted, and why isn't it allowed in Muir Woods?**
The use of the park by picnickers and campers is just too destructive to plant communities. Also, prior to 1964, when picnicking was eliminated, the average picnicker's stay was 4.5 hours. With the limited parking, this monopolized the area for picnickers and made it impossible for many persons to visit Muir Woods.
- Camping areas are Pantoll Camp at Mt. Tamalpais State Park which is approximately 10 miles north of the Monument and Samuel P. Taylor State Park (30 miles). Picnic areas are at Stinson Beach, Muir Beach, Muir Beach Overlook, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and Samuel P. Taylor State Park.
27. **Who was William Kent?**
William Kent was a prominent politician and businessman of Marin County, who purchased Muir Woods in 1905 for \$45,000. He then donated the land to the U.S. Government to save it from being logged or dammed, and asked that it be named for John Muir, whom he greatly admired.
28. **Who was John Muir?**
He was an early and influential conservationist, and also a writer and inventor. He worked closely with President Theodore Roosevelt and was instrumental in saving five national parks, including Yosemite. He was also the first president of the Sierra Club, and explored much of the earth on foot. These were some the reasons that Kent admired the man enough to have this park named in his honor.

SELF QUIZ



Is it okay for visitors to take a leaf if they find one on the ground?

MUIR WOODS MAIN TRAIL MAP

(This map is printed on the back of the free Muir Woods brochure available at the Visitor Center)



Half hour loop walk : Begin at the entrance just past the Visitor Center. Walk along the creek to Bridge 2. Cross the creek and walk back along the other side of the creek.

One hour loop walk : Begin at the entrance. Walk along the creek to Cathedral Grove. Walk through Cathedral Grove. Walk back to Bridge 3. Cross the creek and walk back along the other side of the creek.

One and a half hour loop walk : Begin at the entrance. Walk along the creek to Bridge 4. Cross the creek and walk back on the Hillside Trail to Bridge 2 and from there back to the entrance on either side of the creek. (The Hillside Trail is not paved).

Extended hiking trails : Stop by the Visitor Center and take a look at one of the trail maps.

The main trail is flat, paved and/or boardwalked from the main entrance up to Bridge 4. Trails past Bridge 4 and the Hillside Trail are not recommended for strollers or wheelchairs.

SELF QUIZ



Will I have time to get to Cathedral Grove and back in an hour?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME!	1
SELF QUIZ	2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 30
ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK	3
GENERAL REGULATIONS	5
ENTRANCE FEE	8
VISITOR SERVICES	10
PARK GUIDELINES	12
MUIR WOODS HISTORY	14
REDWOOD ECOLOGY	16, 18
OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS	20, 22, 25, 27
MUIR WOODS MAIN TRAIL MAP	28



Tour Guide
And
Commercial Driver's

MANUAL



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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